

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Representative Mayo Wix.

WHEREAS, on August 19, 1994, Representative Mayo Wix of Westmoreland departed this life for a far better existence; and

WHEREAS, an effective politician who remained true to his roots and a capable law officer who helped change the way the state builds prisons, Mr. Wix had recently retired after a distinguished, fourteen year tenure as a member of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, throughout his stay on Capitol Hill, Representative Wix exhibited the unique ability to blend his expertise in law enforcement with his commitment to state law; and

WHEREAS, because of this amalgam of practical experience and vision for Tennessee's future in correctional programs, Mr. Wix was a source of guidance for many in this General Assembly; he was truly an "anchor of the House"; and

WHEREAS, described by many as "a good friend and a guiding light", Representative Wix always approached each problem confronting the legislature with wisdom, common sense, concern and the fortitude and dedication to get the job done; and

WHEREAS, as Co-Chair of the Joint Select Oversight Committee on Corrections, Mayo Wix made a major contribution to the way the state builds prisons, resulting in standardized designs and enormous cost savings when the state began to build a series of modern correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, drawing on his years of experience as a sheriff and state highway patrol officer, Mr. Wix put forth a simple concept: design prisons from the cell up, to meet the security needs of the prisoners to be housed there; and

WHEREAS, his brilliant idea of adopting a standardized design for prison construction, assured efficiency in construction dollars and in prison security; and

WHEREAS, his worthy efforts transformed Tennessee's correction system from being totally bankrupt to being 100% accredited; and

WHEREAS, in fact, every law enforcement or correctional issue that came before the General Assembly during his tenure bears the distinctive mark of Mayo Wix; and

WHEREAS, as Governor McWherter pointed out, Mayo Wix possessed the ability to look beyond his own district and gauge legislation's effect on the entire state; yet he never forgot the citizens of Sumner County who elected him or where he came from his loyalties lay; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wix was also a valuable member of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee and the House Conservation and Environment Committee; he also served with acumen and dedication as the Vice-Chair of the Parks and Tourism Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, prior to his election to the House of Representatives in 1980, Mr. Wix served with industry, alacrity and sound judgment as a member of the Tennessee Highway Patrol for 26 outstanding years; and

WHEREAS, he was subsequently elected by the good people of Sumner County to serve as their Sheriff, a post he held for six years and filled with the utmost in probity, dedication and ability; and

WHEREAS, with knowledge he gained as a highway patrol instructor, Mr. Wix would implement innovative training programs in the Sheriff's department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wix was extremely active in various law enforcement professional organizations, including the Tennessee Sheriff's Association, of which he was a past president; and

WHEREAS, even as we mourn the irreplaceable loss of Mayo Wix, we must give thanks that Tennessee has benefited so greatly from his experience, his good sense, his generosity

with his time, and his unwavering commitment to the state and each of our citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of Representative Mayo Wix, reflecting fondly upon his indelible legacy of proficient public service, equitable law enforcement and professional excellence. Mr. Wix always upheld the public trust and his commitment to the welfare of his fellow citizens was truly inspiring.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our condolences to Mr. Wix's family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED. That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the Wix family with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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